

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WESTERN DIVISION

No. 5:19-CR-225-FL-1

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	
	)	
v.	)	<u>ORDER</u>
	)	
KENNETH LAMONT BRONSON,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

This matter came before the court on May 13, 2020, for a hearing on the competency of Defendant Kenneth Lamont Bronson ("Defendant") to determine whether Defendant is able to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him and to assist properly in his defense, in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 4241 and 4247(d). At the hearing the government was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Caroline Webb and Defendant, who was appearing by video with consent, was represented by Sonya Allen. The court advised Defendant of his rights under 18 U.S.C. § 4247(d) which Defendant indicated he understood.

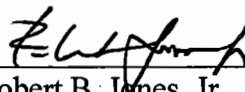
In accordance with the court's order, prior to the hearing, Defendant had been evaluated at the Federal Medical Center Butner by Robert E. Cochrane, Psy.D., a board-certified psychologist. At the conclusion of Defendant's evaluation at Butner, Dr. Cochrane authored a Forensic Evaluation ("Report"), dated November 18, 2019, containing a detailed summary of Defendant's evaluation as well as Dr. Cochrane's findings and conclusion bearing on Defendant's competence. The report was filed under seal and provided to counsel prior to the hearing.

At the hearing, the government argued in support of Dr. Cochrane's findings and

conclusions in the Report. According to the Report, Defendant's diagnosis is Rule-Out Antisocial Personality Disorder. Although Defendant's criminal history suggests he may have an antisocial personality disorder, it is unclear whether Defendant has sufficient traits of this condition. Regardless, however, this maladaptive personality would not have a direct bearing on his competency. Dr. Cochrane opines further that Defendant is not suffering from a mental disease or defect and has demonstrated sufficient understanding of the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him; Defendant is capable of assisting properly in his defense. According to Dr. Cochrane, Defendant is competent to stand trial. Defendant did not contest the findings of the Report and offered no evidence in rebuttal to its findings and conclusions.

Accordingly, after consideration of the position of the parties as well as the findings contained in the Report, the court does not find by a preponderance of the evidence, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 4241(d), that Defendant is presently suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him mentally incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him or to assist properly in his defense.

So ordered, the 13th day of May 2020.

  
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Robert B. Jones, Jr.  
United States Magistrate Judge